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THE FIRST REPORT
OF THE
EASTERN CAROLINA
INDUSTRIAL TRAINING SCHOOL
FOR BOYS
ROCKY MOUNT, N. C.



JANUARY 1, 1927

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

ROCKY MOUNT, N. C., January 1, 1927.

To His Excellency, ANGUS WILTON McLEAN, Governor,
Raleigh, North Carolina.

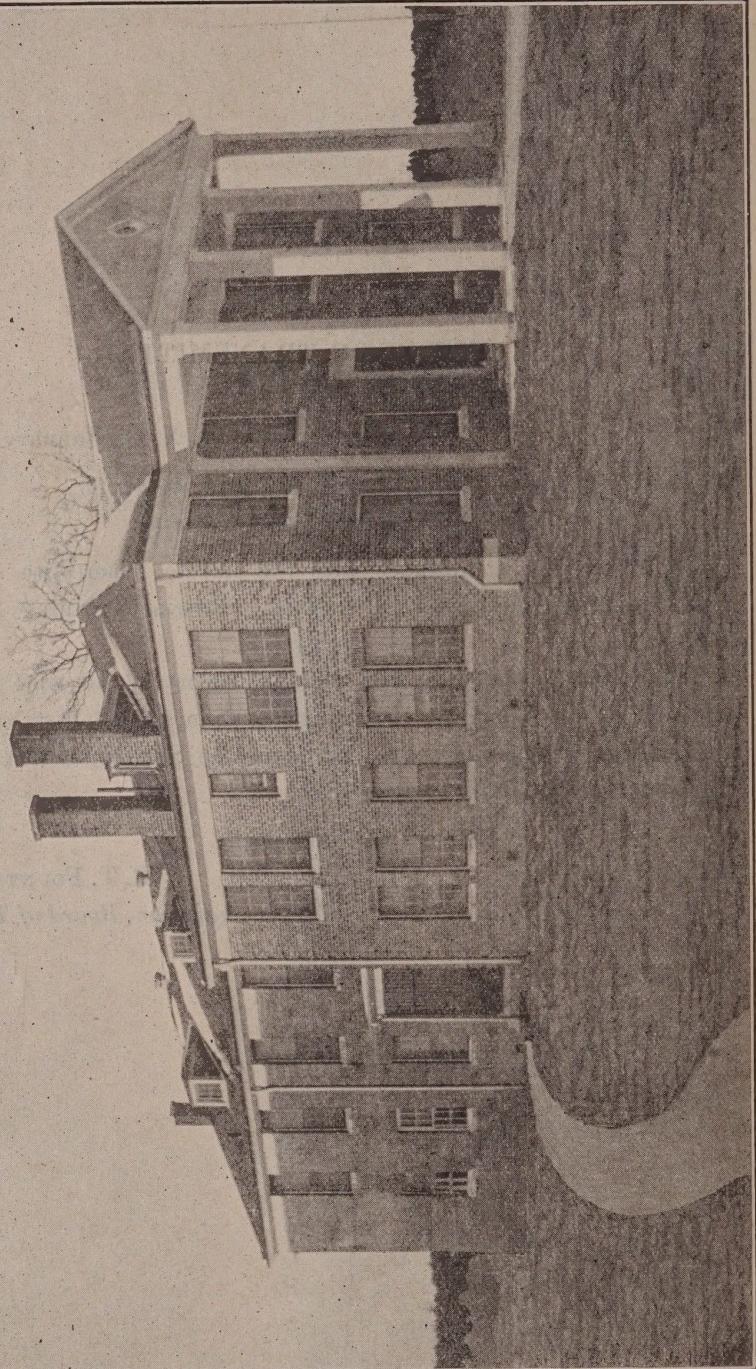
DEAR SIR:—In compliance with the statute I herewith submit the first report of the Eastern Carolina Industrial Training School for Boys.

This report is irregular, as a biennial report at this time is not possible. The school had been running less than six months at the end of the biennium, so for practical purposes the Superintendent has made this report up to January 1, 1927.

Respectfully submitted,

R. T. FOUNTAIN,
Chairman, Board of Trustees.

THE FIRST BUILDING



**THE FIRST REPORT
OF THE
EASTERN CAROLINA
INDUSTRIAL TRAINING SCHOOL FOR BOYS
ROCKY MOUNT, N. C.**

LOCATION

The Eastern Carolina Industrial Training School for Boys is located on Highway 40, three and one-half miles north of Rocky Mount. The building site is just across the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, about one-fifth of a mile from the highway, but the State land extends to the highway, with a road frontage the entire width of the farm. The State owns 132.88 acres of land, 117.58 being a gift of the City of Rocky Mount and 15.3 having been purchased by the State. The site is well adapted to beautification and development, due to the elevation, the building itself being 60 feet higher than the river, three miles away. About three hundred yards from the building there is a clear, never-failing spring which will be used as the center of a park and the source of a swimming pool to be developed later. Only a short distance further there is a small stream which crosses our land and which will be used for stock watering and lower down as sewage disposal.

BUILDINGS

There is one building which was erected as the initial building and which must serve for every purpose until other buildings are erected. In it are the following: First Floor—The reception room; the office; dining room, kitchen, and storage; play room, boys' sitting room and school room (all one); clothes room, wash room, shower room, and toilets. Second Floor—Boys' dormitory containing thirty beds, officer's room, matron's room, infirmary (two rooms). Until December 1, 1926, the infirmary was occupied by the Superintendent and his family.

The Superintendent's cottage was erected at a cost to the State of \$2,000. This was made possible because practically all the labor was done by the school officials and the boys. The cottage has been appraised as having a value of from \$4,500 to \$6,000. It is located across the road from the main building, on a two-acre tract purchased separately from the main farm.

For a barn we moved a pack house measuring 20 x 30 feet to a desired location and built ten-foot sheds around it at no cost to the State except for material.

The shop was likewise an old building 14 x 20 feet which was moved and ten-foot sheds built around it. These sheds are used for storage of

farm machinery, an automobile, and the back part for a poultry house.

We have also built a poultry house, a wood and coal shed, a brick pump house, and have recently moved two other old buildings to be used as a garage and a granary. All this labor was furnished on the place.

STOCK

We have two mules and one horse for farming purposes.

We have three milk cows, two grade Jerseys and one registered Holstein. We also have a registered Holstein sire and two grade Jersey heifer calves. The two Holsteins are the basis of our herd which we hope to build up within a few years, gradually eliminating the grade stock.

We have four hogs, which will be killed in the late winter.

We have about one hundred laying hens, consisting of two flocks, leg-horns and barred rocks. We also have three red Bourbon turkeys.

FARMING

The farm is under the direction of Mr. Guy W. Alexander. Mr. Alexander was reared on the farm, is a practical man with farming stock and machinery, has had four years experience at the Jackson Training School, all of which render him a very efficient man in the work for which he is employed.

The past year was only a beginning in farming. The farm was in poor condition, due to neglect and to tenant cultivation. With only a small number of boys and with only two horses, it was not possible to prepare the land or plant the crops that should have been planted. Nothing was planted that could not be used as food or feed. On account of the continuous and excessive working of our horses, we lost one in the hot July weather. This kept us from "laying by" our crop, for it was several weeks before arrangements could be made to get a team of mules. In spite of all these handicaps, our harvest was fairly good. We have enough corn, hay, and forage for our stock through the winter. We have Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, navy beans, peas, kraut, cucumber pickles, molasses, apples, all of our own production, which will last well into the year 1927. We also raise plenty of peanuts and popcorn for the boys.

Practically all the farm is now plowed for spring planting, and much of it is in cover crops, rye, oats, crimson clover, and vetch.

THE SCHOOL

Our school teacher is Mr. J. Wayland Sledge. Mr. Sledge is a graduate of Wake Forest College, and, although inexperienced in actual classroom work, is by inheritance and training well qualified for the work, his father being a teacher for many years.

Most of our boys are badly graded. All of them are retarded, some not being able to write a letter home. It has been necessary to do individual instruction to a large extent. The training needed most seemed to be English, both written and spoken; so the first months were given over almost entirely to the subject of English. All public school subjects are taught, but in different months. This intensive work is proving very satisfactory. School work begins at 8 o'clock in the morning and goes to 12 with half of the boys. The afternoon session runs from 1 to 5 o'clock with the other half. We have school six days in the week. By using half of the boys on the outside it is possible to keep up the farm and housework along with the school work.

PROJECT WORK

The training that the boy gets in the every-day work is a very important part of the boy's education at the Eastern Carolina Training School. It is in a way the old apprenticeship idea at work. When any work is done, whether it be bedding potatoes, building a poultry house, laying concrete, caring for stock, the boy is trained to do it himself. Our aim is that a boy shall be able to do things as well as know things, when he leaves here. We also place in the boy's hands books that will help him in the various projects undertaken, and in this way books become a useful thing to him instead of something imposed upon him as a part of school. Letter-writing instead of the usual "composition" is used as a practical application in English. Building, ditching, draining of land, plumbing, etc., helps make the arithmetic lesson practical. The cooking is all done by the boys, and in this work the boys are taught the use of the cook book.

RECREATION

Play is a big thing in a boy's life. For indoor play we have two carom boards, checker boards, dominoes, erector, tinker toys, boxing gloves, punching bag, and various puzzles and card games. We also have a victrola and radio, which see little rest.

For outdoor play we have baseball, basketball, football, marbles, horse-shoes, etc. Every once in a while we have a big bonfire in the athletic field at night, where we roast corn, potatoes, marshmallows, etc. Both of our cottage officers are good coaches in the outdoor games, so the boys are getting good training in these sports.

If the boy's conduct and work has been satisfactory for the week, he is permitted to go to town to the picture show on Saturday night. He is entirely on his own honor among the Saturday night crowds, and up to the present time no boy has betrayed the trust.

DISCIPLINE

Discipline, which at the beginning seemed to be one of the impossible things, has come to be a very simple part of the work. The boys themselves, through the honor system, largely manage themselves. The sleeping dormitory has never been locked, and the Yale lock which was placed on the pantry and the padlock on the refrigerator have not been used for many months. No lights are left burning at night, neither do we have a night watchman. Occasionally we have a runaway, but we have never yet lost a boy.

PUNISHMENT

We never whip. Our punishments consist of depriving boys of something they like to do. Usually it is play or a meal or a picture show. In excessive cases it is a period of from twenty-four to forty-eight hours in the "jug" (solitary confinement) on water and crackers. In case of a runaway, the boy's hair is clipped.

RELIGIOUS WORK

Sunday school is conducted at the building each Sunday morning at 10 o'clock. At 11 o'clock the boys attend church in town. This arrangement makes for better contacts with the townspeople, and more people are becoming interested in the boys all the time. At the present time our family is so large that we cannot transport them, so the church people send cars out each Sunday for the boys and return them after church. After the dinner has been finished on Sunday and while sitting at the tables each boy is asked to tell in his own words what he heard at church. This helps to recall the sermon as different boys tell of different parts of the sermon. After dinner on Sunday we have quiet hour for writing and reading until 4 o'clock, when the boys take a stroll about the farm in whatever direction they wish to go.

The spiritual part of the work has helped us very much in the job of handling the boys. This religious atmosphere has a fine toning influence, and yet it does not make the boy any less a boy. Our boys are rapidly connecting themselves with the churches in the city with the view of taking their church letters with them when they return home. This is encouraged, but not urged.

POPULATION

On January 18, 1926, we took our first boy. Within a month we had received eight boys, one of whom was transferred to Caswell Training School. Our number remained at seven for two months, when one more was taken. We held this number until water was obtained, when we began receiving boys about as rapidly as we could handle them, consider-

ing our equipment. On December 31, 1926, we had 25 boys in the house with one more boy ordered in and many applications and inquiries on file. Within a short time our capacity of thirty boys will be reached.

FINANCIAL

We are rather proud of our financial showing in view of the fact that our expenses were unusually heavy in preparing to open the school. The salary of the Superintendent began after the first week in August. Although the school did not open, on account of the delay in getting water, the salaries of the matron and cottage officer began October 15th. These people reported for duty and were continuously occupied. No crops were harvested, so all food and feed had to be purchased. One item of maintenance of \$951.50 was used in completing the water system. In spite of all these extraordinary expenses we were able to turn back to the State Treasurer at the end of the fiscal year \$2,034.77.

GIFTS

Our gifts have been small, but have been useful and very much appreciated. We realize that we must prove ourselves before "men of means" will give us consideration.

The list of gifts and donors follow:

Crosley Radio, Victrola—Mrs. Frank Bulluck, Rocky Mount.
Two old carriages (used for farm wagons)—Mr. J. C. Braswell.
\$38 for games—Rocky Mount Kiwanis Club.
\$2 for games—Boys' Sunday School Class, Selma (N. C.) Cotton Mill.
Carom Board—Mr. George F. Brietz, Selma.
Collie dog—Mrs. T. A. Cooper, Rocky Mount.
Piano—Rocky Mount Cotillion Club.

Our Christmas gifts by the people of Rocky Mount and Whitakers are too numerous to mention. I think all the churches in Rocky Mount, as well as most of the service clubs, were represented in the programs and gifts. The Methodist Protestant Church of Whitakers, through its Christian Endeavor societies, sent many good things to eat.

THE FUTURE

We are asking the Legislature for a school building, two dormitories (capacity 30 each), a dairy barn, 92 acres of land and the necessary equipment to make the additional improvements usable. We are also asking for an appropriation for fencing, of which we are very much in need.

We hold an option on 92 acres of land, which we are asking for, at a price of \$100 an acre. This land extends to within 250 feet of the main building and 100 feet of the Superintendent's cottage. Colored people

own the land adjacent to this tract. It is a fact that the school must at some future date purchase this tract of land. It can be bought much cheaper now than if it falls in the hands of speculators. We need the land along with the additional 60 boys. Our sewage disposal plant, according to the Engineering Department of the State Board of Health, must be located on it. It is a necessary extension of our program.

As we see it, the future of the school depends on what the Legislature does. We have the natural site, we have passed the hardest part of the beginning, the spirit is fine here, so we are facing the future with confidence.

FINALLY

I cannot finish this report without stating that I have had the heartiest coöperation from the board in all progressive plans. Especially would I mention Mr. R. T. Fountain, chairman, and Mr. J. C. Braswell, chairman building committee and treasurer, both of whom have been called on repeatedly in solving the emergency problems that continuously arise. They have never failed to give of their time when the needs of the school called for it.

Respectfully submitted,

SAMUEL E. LEONARD,
Superintendent.

